

PRODUCTS SERVICE IS VITAL FACTOR

Alfred Reeves, national manager of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, in addressing the convention of the service men of the automobile industry in Indianapolis, said that "service will be the most vital function of the automobile industry in the succeeding years."

During 1925 there will be 2,250,000 new cars produced in America and a billion dollars has been appropriated for roads for these cars," he added. "It will be the service man's job to keep this immense transportation system in constant operation. The automobile, in fact, will be our only transportation salvation for some years to come, as the railroads and trolley lines and street cars can not be expanded rapidly enough to take care of the ever-increasing transportation crisis with which we are faced."

"It will be possible," said Mr. Reeves, "for the increasing service responsibility to be met with increased knowledge and skill. Such service conventions as the one held by the Nordyke & Macdonald company for the service men of the distributors will help mightily. No firm in the industry stands higher than the Nordyke & Macdonald company and its distributors are one-half dozen other manufacturers in the country who look at service as a responsibility from as high a standpoint."

"The service men who attended the convention will be in a position not only to take care of the motor cars, but to contribute vitally to the transportation needs of the country, without the hindrance of the transportation crisis. In the quarter, we would be up against a transportation jam that could not be met. There are 2,250,000 cars in 1926 and it is the province of the service men to keep this transportation system in constant operation."

FORMER U. S. OFFICIAL INDICTED BY JURORS

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 24.—Capt. John F. Blain, formerly Northern Pacific coast district manager of the Emergency Fleet corporation, was at liberty today under \$10,000 bond following his indictment by a federal grand jury yesterday on charges of profiting through the sale of material for use on shipping board vessels.

Further indictments were regarded as a possibility when the grand jury resumed work Tuesday, according to W. C. Foster, special agent of the department of justice.

Two indictments, one of which contained no counts, were returned against Capt. Blain. One charge was that he had received secret commissions amounting to \$17,500, arising from contracts between the government and a company for which he was an alleged agent.

Capt. Blain is well known in Pacific coast shipping circles and at Boston, where he formerly was inspector of hulls and boilers.

KEEN INTEREST IN COMING OF SEAGLE

Oscar Seagle, the well-known baritone, who will appear at Goodwyn institute Tuesday, Feb. 3, will be greeted by hosts of friends. Among these will be those who heard him before in recitals, and some who studied under this master of vocal arts. That he will receive an ovation rarely accorded here is forecast by the requests for reservations.

Mr. Seagle is a Southerner. In fact, a native of Tennessee. His gifts date back to his boyhood days, when he was recognized as a wonder, his beautiful high soprano voice melting the hearts of all who heard him. At the early age of 20 he entered the light opera field, making rapid progress, but a higher role called him and for this enlarged field he placed himself under De Reszke, in Paris.

BAR SUNDAY PAPERS.

MADRID, Jan. 24.—The Official Journal publishes a royal decree forbidding in the future publication of Sunday evening and Monday morning editions of newspapers. Sale of newspapers also is prohibited from noon Sunday to noon Monday.

Work in editorial and printing offices of the newspapers must cease from 7 a.m. Sunday until 7 a.m. Monday. Transmission of news intended for publication, either by telegraph or telephone is forbidden between 6 o'clock Sunday morning and 6 o'clock Monday morning.

NATIONS FORM ALLIANCE.

BUDAPEST, Jan. 24.—Czechoslovakia and the Austrian republic have formed an alliance against Hungary, according to a news agency report published here. It is said the agreement reached by Chancellor Renner at Prague provides that Austria shall undertake no measures looking to an increase in her military establishment without submitting them to Czechoslovakia for approval and that in the event of war between the Czechs and Hungary, Austria shall supply munitions and material only to the former.

BIRTH RATE LOWERED.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—New York state's normal birth rate has been reduced by 35,000 since Jan. 1, 1915, because of the war and the resultant high cost of living, according to a statement by Dr. H. M. Biggs, state commissioner of health. The extreme low mark, the lowest in the state's history, Dr. Biggs said, was reached in July, 1919, when births dropped to 18.7 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the first eight months of 1919 was 20.2. The death rate for the same period was the lowest in many years.

WARN OF STORM.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 24.—Cautionary storm warnings for small craft were ordered displayed along the Texas coast at 3 a. m. today by the weather bureau. Moderate fresh to northerly winds were predicted for today and tonight. Freezing temperature to the Texas coast by Sunday morning was forecast.

POWHATAN DELAYED.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 24.—Misfortune again today attended the attempt to bring the disabled United States transport Powhatan to port. Capt. Travis, master of the Canadian government steamer Lady Laurier, which yesterday was slowly but steadily towing the Powhatan toward Halifax, advised the marine agent here this morning that one of the tow lines had parted and that progress has stopped.

15 STILL MAROONED.

CHICAGO, Jan. 24.—Fifteen men, the captain and crew of the 250-ton freight steamer Sidney O. Neff, today still were marooned in an ice-jam six miles off the mouth of the Chicago river, where they have been since Monday afternoon. Four attempts to rescue them yesterday failed. The men are short of provisions and the ship's coal supply will be exhausted by night.

HAIG WILL RETIRE.

LONDON, Jan. 24.—Field Marshal Haig (Earl of Bismersyde) will retire February 1, when the post of commander-in-chief will be abolished. The Daily Mail this morning. With the abolition of this post, the newspaper adds, command of the army will revert to the army council as in pre-war days.

EXTEND CENSUS TIME.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—While it had been hoped to complete the enumeration work in the fourteenth decennial census in 10 days, Director Sam L. Rogers, of the census bureau, said today the time would be extended and that the count of population of the country would be completed regardless of the time necessary.

BATTERIES TO TRAIN.

OTTAWA, Jan. 24.—Canada will organize and train 50 field and 15 heavy artillery batteries this year, as the first step in post-war reorganization of the Dominion militia, the government announced today.

ROBBERS GET \$20,000.

RED BANK, N. J., Jan. 24.—Three armed men held up four employees of the Edgmont Elmer company on the Edgmont Elmer road today and robbed them of \$20,000, the company payroll.

UP TO TELEPHONE COMPANY TO GET MORE OPERATORS

(Continued From First Page.)

It is poorer in quality than it has been for many years."

Tests it further says, which were made by J. N. Cadby, of Madison, Wis., employed to make an expert investigation, show that "its efficiency is not greater than 60 per cent, whereas to be satisfactory, its efficiency should be about 95 per cent." And the "committee is of the opinion that this percentage fixed by Mr. Cadby is conservative."

Referring to the efforts of the company to supply the shortage of trained operators by providing attractive working quarters and conditions, advertising, and even house-to-house canvassing, the report says that "while these efforts deserve recognition, yet it is the opinion of your committee that they are not sufficient to lift from the company the responsibility for this shortage of operators."

The committee expresses opinion that the company can secure the needed operators "within a reasonable time" by increasing its efforts in the direction of advertising, by extending them into surrounding towns and cities, and "if necessary, raising the wage scale."

It is declared that since the beginning of the investigation the company has raised the wages for beginners from \$9 to \$10 a week, with the result that a number of operators who had previously left the service have returned to work.

Its own opinion in respect of the efficacy of higher wages for beginners is opposed by that of officials of the company, the committee says, these officials having said that this would not help matters. "But your committee is of a contrary opinion, especially in view of the fact that the wage scale was raised after the suggestion was made to the company by this committee, and with the result above indicated."

In further pursuance of its expressed intention to deal fairly with the telephone company, the committee includes a word to the public in defense of the operators. "It should especially be borne in mind," the report says, "that patience, impatience and discourtesy exhibited toward the individual telephone operator results only in harm. She is usually rendering the best service she can. The breakdown is caused by the fact that she has not had opportunity to receive adequate training, or that the company has not furnished sufficient help for her. Impatience and criticism merely tend to make her dissatisfied and to render more difficult the task of the company in retaining its present force of operators and in obtaining additions to it."

Strenuous exertions on the part of

the telephone company to prevent the sending out of the questionnaire which Mr. Armstrong had prepared at the opening of the investigation, are revealed in the report to the chamber's directors. It is shown that the telephone company even went so far as to promise to admit in writing that the service was inefficient and did make something in the nature of an admission in order to palliate the chamber's committee and persuade them to withhold the questionnaire. But "this purported admission amounted to but little more than an argument on the part of the company and was unsatisfactory to the committee," the report says.

The committee then resolved to send out the questionnaire, but the officials of the company, contravening with the fact that an expert was about to reach Memphis to make investigations for the committee, urged that the questionnaire be held up until the expert could review them. They made the plea as in the first instance, that the questionnaire would encourage further spirit of criticism in the breasts of the public and result in disorganization of the personnel of the service, especially the switchboard operators. Not desiring to appear vindictive Mr. Armstrong again withheld the questionnaire.

But the questionnaire has been thoroughly revised by Mr. Cadby and will be sent, according to the present intention of the committee, provided the telephone company does not by that time evidence a reasonable progress toward improvement.

Local Office Not to Blame.

Mr. Armstrong turned a copy of the report of his committee, with the chamber's board of directors' endorsement over to Lovick P. Miles, attorney for the telephone company, Saturday morning. He also put in the mail another copy for Frank Flournoy, manager of the local company. He will expect to receive an answer from Mr. Flournoy, or the company's attorney Monday, advising him whether they want to undertake the improvement of their service, or want the committee immediately to institute proceedings to compel improvement.

In connection with the telephone investigation the committee has been treated with the greatest courtesy and courtesy by Mr. Flournoy and the subordinates under him. He has raised no objection to their inspection of his exchanges and courteously assisted the investigations of Mr. Cadby throughout his stay here. The committee is especially commended for the consideration shown its operators in the way of

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clean and sanitary surroundings such as an emergency hospital, well-ventilated, well-furnished restrooms, and a cheap and sanitary lunchroom. It further said that it believed that if the favorable conditions under which these operators work were better understood there would be less difficulty in obtaining their services.

Police Doubt Story Blacks Threw Lacey Silver Into River

Preliminary hearing for the two negroes held on charges of housebreaking and larceny of \$2,000 worth of silver from the residence of R. B. Lacey, 383 North Parkway, will be held Saturday afternoon before Judge J. H. Barker in city court.

Meanwhile, Detectives Bishop and Joyce, who preferred the charge against the negroes, are continuing their search for Mrs. Lacey's silver, which one of the negroes told them he had tossed into the Mississippi river from the J. T. Harahan bridge. The detectives do not believe this explanation and base their idea that the silver is somewhere else than on the bottom of the river, on the time that elapsed between the robbery and the arrest of the negroes. They would not have had time to drive to the Harahan bridge and back again to the Lacey home before Patrol Officers Sanderson and Bailey, who made the arrest, arrived there, the detectives say.

STRIKERS SENTENCED.

SALONKI, Jan. 24.—Several railroad strikers have been sentenced to death by courts-martial established in Bulgarian towns to try men accused of blowing up railway bridges in that country. Bolshevik disorders are reported in advices from Sofia, which say that at Boudiza one communist and one soldier were killed.

THREE MORE TO DIE.

BUDAPEST, Jan. 24.—Three more communists, Ladislav Szamudy, Carlo Rogovao and Joseph Szabo, have been sentenced to death. Seven others have been given varying terms of imprisonment.

EIGHT SAILORS ILL.

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 24.—Eight sailors, members of the crew of the steamship Coastwise, were brought to Norfolk late last night and placed in a local hospital for treatment. Officers say that when the ship sailed from New York the crew seemed apparently healthy but before sighting the Virginia capes eight of the men were stricken with pneumonia.

DANIELS TO TESTIFY AT NEXT PROBERS' SESSION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—The next session of the senate subcommittee investigating the award of naval war medals, Chairman Hat announced, probably would be held Tuesday at which time it is planned to hear Secretary Daniels.

BATTERY DEPENDABILITY

Battery dependability is always assured in PERMALIFE. Service has made it popular. It puts brightness into your headlights, power to your starter and pep to your horn—

And It's Guaranteed for 20 Months

SUPERIOR MOTOR CO.

DISTRIBUTORS

Monroe at Wellington. Memphis.

Write For Terms And Prices.

Wayne Oil Tank & Pump Co.

245 Monroe, Memphis

Along Wayne Row

You See Them Everywhere

WHY?

Because

They assure clean, filtered gasoline, accurately measured, at all times.

Wayne Oil Tank & Pump Co.

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It is considered that the local management under Mr. Flournoy is not primarily responsible for the shortage of operators, which has caused the breakdown of the service, but that the failure of the head of this company to place sufficient revenue at the disposal of the local office to permit the passing of attractive wages to operators is responsible. Mr. Flournoy has always seemed most anxious to maintain good service and no one who has gone to him with any complaint of the service has ever received anything but the most courteous treatment and consideration.

In addition to Mr. Armstrong the report is signed by Lamar Heiskell, Herbert Gansaway, J. S. Allen, E. B. Klever, James L. McKee and Judge Ben Capell, members of the law committee.

Mr. Flournoy declined to make a statement relative to the attitude of the telephone company toward the ultimatum when approached for that purpose by The News Scimitar Saturday morning. He said that he had not been furnished an official copy of the report of the law committee and would have to wait until he received one before expressing an opinion. The reporter interviewing him offered him an official copy of the report, but Mr. Flournoy asked to be excused from expressing an attitude upon such short notice.

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